

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Crying to our pillow, like a weeping willow since 1911

Monday, March 1, 1993

Firestorm over incinerator

BY AUBREY COHEN

Over 100 students, blue collar workers and other citizens held a rally last Wednesday to protest an incinerator planned by the Régie Inter-Municipale de Gestion sur Ville de Montréal.

Protestors charged that the incinerator would create hazardous smoke and ash and discourage the growth of recycling programs. They also accused the Régie of not consulting citizens before going ahead with plans to build.

The Régie intends the incinerator to service 26 suburban municipalities. It has contracted the firm Foster-Wheeler to build it, and picked a site in Montréal East.

Jacqueline Mayrand of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) voiced concern about both the ash and the smoke that are byproducts of incineration.

"For every three tonnes of garbage, one tonne of ash is produced. In forty per cent of the cases this ash is toxic," said Mayrand.

If the ash is classified as toxic, it would be landfilled. If the ash is cleared, it would be used on roads.

"There is a huge controversy over whether the method for disposing of this ash is as safe as originally thought," said Mayrand.

Although Mayrand agrees that there are methods for limiting the pollution in the emissions, she said this does not get rid of the problem.

"It's a catch 22. If you have all of this technology to stop toxicity from the chimney, it will go into the ash. You don't get rid of it."

John Ethier, communications director for the Régie, said an impact study confirmed that the incinerator was safe.

"The study says the impact is less than one-tenth of one per cent for a human being living 70 years right next to the incinerator, living outside, never leaving the area and eating food grown right under his feet."

Ethier said the Régie studied pollution standards throughout the rest of Canada and the United States and the proposed incinerator measured up well.

"We are well below the standard [acceptable levels of pollution] that are acceptable to governments."

Effects on Recycling

A second major concern is that recyclables would be burned in the incinerator, especially paper and plastics.

Hugh Potter, a graduate student in environmental engineering at McGill who is on the Better Waste Management Committee of QPIRG, noted, "the best things to burn are paper and plastics which are also among the best things to recycle."



Forty per cent of all incinerator ash is toxic.

The Régie has guaranteed Foster Wheeler 350 000 tonnes a year of garbage for the incinerator. Potter said that this would mean that recyclables may well be used to make up a deficit in other waste.

"Complete competition would have to exist between the incinerator and the recycling centre."

The Régie is planning to build a recycling centre next to the incinerator. This means the Régie could easily use recyclables in the incinerator.

Ethier commented that these claims were unsubstantiated. He believed that meeting guarantees with non-recyclables will not be a problem.

"The municipal areas are now producing 700 000 tonnes of garbage per year. We are guaranteeing 350 000 tonnes per year. This figure causes no problem."

The reason why the Régie is guaranteeing half the amount of garbage they produce is that other programs are also to be implemented.

"The idea is to reduce the amount of green bag garbage by 50 per cent by the year 2000," said Ethier.

Decisions not democratic

A major complaint against the Régie is that they did not consult people before going ahead with the project.

"The Régie's methods have been against the minimum standards of democracy. They have not consulted ministers. They have been meeting behind closed doors," said Mayrand.

But Ethier said that the public was always informed of the Régie's plans.

"We've done more than average in terms of information. From the beginning, there were working sessions where the public was allowed." Ethier admitted that there was no advertising for the sessions.

Ethier said citizens voiced their approval of the project in a poll last year.

"People are strongly behind the project according to the polls that we've done," said Ethier.

Provincial Hearings

The next step in the process is that the province will be setting up a commission on the project. According to Maynard, this will only perpetuate the short-sighted way in which the issue of waste disposal has been handled by the provincial government.

"If we look at the waste management problem, we should look at all of Quebec and not just specific cases."

Quebec environment minister Pierre Paradis has agreed to meet representatives of QPIRG and other groups to discuss the possibility of a province wide waste management plan.

Mayrand said that Paradis is finally starting to give the attention that is needed by setting up this meeting. "He doesn't have a choice right now," she said.

Students object to condo conversion plan

BY KATHY BUNKA

Student representatives called for a continued moratorium on conversion of rental units to condos in a brief to a city hall commission last Tuesday.

Students' society vp external Jeff Percival, along with McGill students Chris Wrobel and Arnold Kwok, summed up a report they had submitted earlier to city council. They argued that lifting the moratorium on condo conversion in the city will further reduce affordable student housing close to campus.

They were pessimistic about how seriously their report was taken.

"The council seems to have made up its mind on lifting the moratorium," said Kwok.

The report, prepared by Wrobel with Kwok's assistance, objects to the gentrification of areas neighbouring the campus.

Gentrification is when rich people move into an area, gradually changing the neighborhood so that

former residents can no longer afford it.

"Today the McGill Ghetto is mostly an area of wealthy property-owners," wrote Wrobel in his report.

Students, and everyone else in Montréal, are protected from eviction by tenant laws enforced by the Régie de Logement, a housing watchdog organisation in the city.

But with students moving each year, landlords have more opportunities to apply to have student dwellings converted to condos. Another option for lucky landlords is to gradually raise the rent each time the property changes tenants to reach the city's required level for conversion eligibility.

The city of Montréal plans to allow condo conversions under certain conditions. The city wants to expand opportunities for young households and families to become house owners in certain Montréal neighbourhoods.

Exceptions to the moratorium will be granted if the vacancy rate in the area under consideration is greater than or equal to three per cent.

Duplexes, triplexes and rental buildings with four units or more with rents above a benchmark figure will be exempt from the moratorium. The buildings must also be less than five years old.

The benchmark figure starts at \$525 for a one or two room unit and goes up to \$875 for a "five rooms or more" unit.

"It won't affect any students unless they're paying \$900 a month rent. It will not touch low-rent housing. That's obvious to anyone that reads the report with an open mind," said MUC executive committee vp John Gardiner, referring to the MUC report "New Housing Choices in Montréal."

When told that students often share units with five rooms or more that do cost more than \$900 he responded, "I don't see the point."

Wrobel said councillors were ignoring the effect lifting the moratorium will have on students. "He's saying students don't normally occupy dwellings with this level of rent. That's baloney," said Wrobel.

Marcel Sévigny, one of the commission members, suggested that lifting this moratorium might be of interest to students five years down the line.

"Can you understand that some people will benefit from this exception to the law? Some will become house owners," she told Percival, Kwok and Wrobel.

Kwok said, "Students often don't know about the Régie, and they rarely know how much rent previous tenants were charged. Student housing near the campus will go down if this change to the law goes through."

Percival said that this was an issue affecting all students. "I have brought it up with my counterparts at the Université du Québec à Montréal and the Université de Montréal," he said.

Students' society endorsed the brief in a unanimous vote on the 18th of January.

"It means that all of the students at McGill are speaking with a common voice," said Jason Prince, SSMU president.

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Councillors shy away from 'divisive' issue

BY JONATHAN DESBARATS

Student councillors blasted president Jason Prince at the last Students' council meeting for taking part in a hunger strike several weeks ago. The strike, organised by the Palestinian Solidarity Committee (PSC), was protesting the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"I'm wondering if the president feels it is responsible for the president of this body to participate in such a divisive event," said Greg Shron, Architecture rep.

Prince insisted that he took part in the strike as a concerned individual, not as representative of the Students' Society or the student body.

"I was representing my own beliefs," said Prince. "I believe that I have every right to take a stand on important issues."

Councillors worried that Students' society (SSMU) could be seen as supporters of the event. Because of the position Prince holds, he was able to act as porter taking care of the Shatner building during the three nights the strike lasted, thus saving the PSC from paying porter's fees.

Some students and members of council interpreted Prince's contribution as political endorsement of the event.

"The record shows that Jason Prince in this strike acted as president," said McGill student Adam Freiheit.

Science rep Aubrey Kassirer agreed, and pointed out that in a letter to the *Tribune* explaining his involvement in the strike, Prince signed 'Jason Prince, SSMU president'. Another councillor mentioned that the Students' Society logo appeared on flyers distributed at the event. But Prince said this was required of an Students' Society recognized event.

"The logo is required, and doesn't mean the Students' Society supports the event," said Prince.

Issue doesn't affect students

Members of the PSC attended the meeting and planned to make a presentation to council explaining that they were not after political support. They said they had plenty of political support within the United Nations resolution condemning the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

But the proposed presentation was canned by some councillors and members of the gallery, since there were no documents and no active motion to accompany the presentation. In other words, it was not 'official business'.

"The discussion was stopped by technicalities," said McGill science student Hala Arafat outside the meeting. "That's disgusting, and shows that Palestinians are treated worse than germs."

Councillors also questioned whether the Students' Society should be discussing foreign issues.

"We do not have a mandate to

make foreign policy in this body," said Rob Valdmanis. "It is unfair to discuss an issue of this importance without any documents," he said.

Council passed a notice of motion made by Aubrey Kassirer stating that "SSMU not take a stance on issues that do not directly affect McGill students". The motion will be tabled at the next council meeting.

But Prince said it was ridiculous for council to put a muzzle on itself.

"We have in the past taken a stance on broad issues. The Student Society's opposition to apartheid led directly to McGill's divestment policy." Prince noted that the Students' Society also took a stance on the Gulf War, opposing the use of force.

Who's that shy guy in the spiffy jacket?

Members of the Palestinian Solidarity Committee lambasted Shron and others for shying away from the issue.

"I'd like to direct my question to the guy in the spiffy jacket (Greg Shron)," said PSC president Yousuf Arafat. "The United Nations passed a resolution condemning Israel's deportation of Palestinians - what is divisive about this?"

A feisty crowd gathered in the lobby of the Shatner building after the meeting and lined up to comment on the proceedings.



"This is a students' council, and we should be discussing these issues — there are 500 Palestinian and Arab students at McGill," said management student Edward Matti. "How can Greg Shron consider McGill an intellectual institution if students don't discuss international events?"

Doron Goldstein, a poli-sci stu-

dent at McGill, disagreed with Matti's statement.

"I don't think it's the place of the SSMU to discuss this issue - there are millions of human rights issues. We (a group of concerned students) have a petition with 500 signatures of students who agree."

One student accused the PSC of misinforming councillors.

"The tactics used by the PSC are repugnant," said Daniel Koffler, also in poli-sci. "Council is being manipulated by misquotes and partial facts."

Another anonymous student accused the *Daily* of misinformation.

"The *Daily*? You leftist fuckers won't print what I say!" he said.

campus briefs



vp university affairs
Monique Shebbeare

No conflict over student services budget

The student services budget was approved by Senate last month without any indication of conflict between students and administrators.

The budget was the source of a huge dispute between students and administrators last year. Students charged that the Dean of Students gave them inadequate information and too little notice before calling for the decision to raise student fees.

Students' society vp university affairs Monique Shebbeare said communications had improved, and

that meetings discussing the budget were more frequent.

"I feel there are still improvements to be made in terms of information and time," added Shebbeare.

An advisory committee consisting of half students and half staff approved fee increases from \$82 to \$86 for full-time students and from \$32.80 to \$34.40 for part-time students. "The increases are below the rate of inflation," said Shebbeare.

The final say on the student fees belongs to the board of governors, which meets next month.

— Fiona McCaw

Rare books not climate controlled

kicker: Senate votes to install climate control as soon as possible
Anyone forced to study in McLennan-Redpath on one of those days when they have the heat on full blast knows there is a certain lack of climate control in McGill's library system.

Senate voted February 17 to install climate control for the rare books as soon as possible.

"It was with a sense of shock that we heard that the rare books do not have climate control," said science professor Graham Bell.

Bruce Whiteman, Head of Rare Books and Special collections for the Humanities and Social Sciences library, said the problem was not as

urgent as it sounded.

"Certainly there are books in the collection which are disintegrating," said Whiteman. "But while we don't have climate control, conditions are not bad."

Whiteman said library workers wanted a climate control system for the collection.

"It's certainly been on the wish list since I got here in 1988," he said. "I've been puzzled why they didn't put climate control into their plans when they built the McLennan building in 1969."

Whiteman said a reason why a climate control system was not a priority before was that the issue of book preservation is a relatively recent phenomenon.

"It's really only in the past ten years that preservation and conservation have been much discussed in the library world," said Whiteman.

Whiteman said the only problem with the building in recent years was water leakage in July 1987. He said the books damaged then are being restored with money from the insurance.

— Fiona McCaw



New department of human genetics

A brand new department has started at McGill. Senate voted overwhelmingly in favour last meeting to create the department of Human Genetics.

The department will operate out of the faculty of medicine. It will at first consist of professors who now work at the Centre for Human Genetics, a centre where researchers from different departments and faculties collaborate on Human Genetics work.

The new department will also take over the courses in Biology and Medicine now run out of the Biology department

— Fiona McCaw

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

Peace through responsible television viewing

Politicians love a good symbolic gesture. It doesn't matter if it will obscure the real issues, or if it will do nothing useful — a good symbolic gesture will get them any time. Federal communications minister Perrin Beatty's recent announcement on TV violence is typical.

Beatty announced that he considers TV violence a terrible social problem, and that he would look for ways of keeping it out of sight of children. In effect, Beatty and the gaggle of lobbyists backing him are looking for social control through TV scheduling.

But such a strategy has little foundation in actual social research. While some work has suggested a possible link, no conclusive studies have found a definite relationship between violent crime and specific TV programming.

Beatty acknowledges that the roots of violence are certainly more complex than people imitating what goes on on television shows. But the idea that TV shows are a credible cause of violence itself indicates other more serious problems with our society.

Many people are convinced that TV violence has a lot to do with real violence. They aren't completely out of touch — there may well be some kind of link. But is the problem simply the number of violent acts on TV? What about the situation that makes people vulnerable to this stuff? If two dimensional images from a talking box can become role models for how people behave, then they are really in bad shape.

Maybe we should look at why so many people, children especially, have nothing better to do than to sit for hours in front of the tube. How did people get so lonely and so bored? What makes people have so little confidence in themselves and each other that the TV could actually influence their morality?

There are a long list of factors we could blame, including poverty, unemployment, lack of daycare, and increasing isolation of people, even those living in large cities.

None of these problems have easy solutions, but if the government considered them a priority, it could do something to help. Instead we see punitive policies against the unemployed, a determination to cut back on education and health spending, and a rejection of their electoral promise to bring in a daycare program.

And despite the government's zeal to confront fictional violence, it seems quite willing to finance real violence through the police and the Ministry of Defence. And by underfinancing social programs the government makes life more difficult for the people who are most often the victims of violence.

If the government was serious about stopping violence, it would have to confront some of these issues. But instead it seeks to control fiction, a move that will naturally have only fictional effects.

What if Mr. Beatty's strategy was applied to real violence financed by the government? Here's an example: To prevent children from being exposed to real violence, peace-keeping soldiers may not shoot Somali demonstrators, RCMP officers may not shoot people unnecessarily, and groups of Innu may not be abandoned to rot in remote villages until after 9:00pm (9:30 in Newfoundland). Hmmm...

Fiona McCaw

All readers are welcome to submit letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and telephone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.



DAILY GRAPHIC BY HASAN KARRAR

hyde park

Guilty of a double standard

Opinion by Doron Goldstein

It is unfortunate, but the international community, and many here on campus have a double standard with respect to Israel and the Arab countries.

The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. said, "When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews. You're talking anti-Semitism." The Pope has said that anti-Zionism is more often than not simply a cover for anti-Jewish racism. This does not mean that criticism of Israel is never warranted. Israel, like all countries, has its flaws. But when criticizing Israel the benchmark test must be whether one has criticized other equally for doing the same or worse. The Arabs, their allies in the world and here on campus, and most of the international community fail this test miserably.

This can be more clearly demonstrated than by the GUPS-organized hunger strike in support of the Palestinian deportees. Not only are those who partook in this misguided protest supporting murderous Muslim extremists, they are also hypocrites. Here are a few examples of how great these

self-proclaimed champions of human rights have been when it comes to any country except Israel.

- In 1982, when the Syrian city of Hama became a center for Fundamentalist Muslims, it was besieged by the Syrian army, and shelled into oblivion. 30,000 civilians were killed. World reaction: Deafening silence.

- In 1985-86, Kuwait deported 27,000 people as "security risks." World reaction: None.

- After the Gulf War, Kuwait deported 300,000 Palestinian Arabs, accusing them of nothing more than being Palestinian. World reaction: Even the Palestinian leadership was mute.

- Last year, Saudi Arabia expelled 750,000 Yemeni workers. World reaction: only Yemen protested, and was ignored.

- Since last month, Egypt has been cracking down on Islamic fundamentalists. Hundreds have been taken into custody; an unknown number have been summarily executed. World reaction: Silence.

In the last year, almost every Arab

country has brutally cracked down on Muslim Fundamentalists. Egypt and Tunisia recently issued a call for the creation of an inter-Arab task force to fight these "terrorist" organizations. Yet these countries, their supporters, and those who they have duped into sympathy, condemn Israel for taking action against Muslim extremists.

When Israel orders a two-year expulsion of 400 self-proclaimed leaders of Muslim fundamentalist organizations which have murdered hundreds of Arab and Jewish civilians, there are calls from the Arabs and their followers for sanctions against Israel. A double standard? Obviously.

There can be no doubt, except among "anti-Zionists", that the world's treatment of Israel has been — and continues to be — unfairly biased against the Jewish state. Furthermore, when it comes to abiding by UN resolutions, let us remember that the entire Arab-Israeli conflict would be far closer to being resolved if the Arab countries accepted one resolution which they have persistently ignored for almost half a century: the 1947 UN Resolution which led to the creation of the State of Israel.

letters

Ancient Love

To the Daily:

Referring to the McGill Daily Feb. 11 article on "Bisexual women, lesbians" vis à vis "South Asian identity", one does not see any problem.

There had been no denial of the presence of lovemaking between people of the same gender in Indian culture. Ancient Hindu temples, Sanskrit and Pali literatures carry unbiased descriptions of those social practices between people. The Konarak and Khajuraho temples on the East and North

India, and the gigantic South Indian temples of Rameshwaram, Madurai and Trichur sculpted homosexual lovemaking postures without any reservations. Those are depicted in the ground levels of the temple panels which start with the lives of people in general, in relation to people to people, people and animal, and nature and people.

In the Indian epic of The Mahabharata the practice of lovemaking between the people of the same gender in the Jadu clan was described without any reservations by the writer of the epic.

The practice, while not condoned, was never covered up by the writers, artists and social scientists of that time.

The only enigmatic evaluation of the practice was in the form of a question relating the destination of such a practice. The love between the same gender, though present through their whole lives, does not necessarily involve sexual practices, and if it does, where does it transcend to since there would be no progeny?

P.B. Mukhopadhyay



SINCE 1911

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TREEPLANTING

can be rewarding summer employment, both financially and as a life experience. But there are a lot of tree planting companies who engage in dubious hiring and employment practices. Many companies specialize in capitalizing on university students' misconceptions of how the industry operates.

Ewan Atto, says tree planting can be a great way for a student to earn money, but he stressed over and over the importance of finding a good company to work for. He told the *Daily* about working near one of the most notoriously bad companies in British Columbia.

"Watching those poor planters at work was one of the sadder experiences of my life," said Atto. "They were getting 50 or 60 per cent of the price per tree we were getting for doing a very similar type of work. To make \$70 or \$80 a day, they had to work twelve or thirteen hours." He added that they only had a day off every eleven or twelve days.

Former planters often have totally contrary views on whether planting is worthwhile at all. Kate Waller, an anthropology student at McGill said she got hired by a company in Thunder Bay run by members of the Dutch Reformed Church. "Most of the people working for the company were devoutly religious. We never moved camp, we had at least every Sunday off, and we ate lots of hearty Dutch food," she said.

Her experience was positive, many others say it was hell and refuse to return. Kevin Robertson described his memories of planting as "pretty negative."

"I don't even like thinking about planting," he said, "I've never had worse food and the work itself is ultimate monotony."

Enough people share his view that turnover among planters in British Columbia is estimated to be between 50 and 80 per cent annually. The major reason for the high percentage of dissatisfied planters lies in the system through which planting companies get contracts for planting.

Some companies hire on eastern university campuses because they can find students with no planting experience and little or no knowledge of industry norms.

Mark Manly, one of the coauthors of this report, testified that in his first year at McGill he didn't know anything about tree planting. "I called companies through the *Daily's* classifieds and ended up going to an interview with a foreman from the 'reputable' Roots Reforestation Ltd.

"The first foreman would not hire me, so I went and spoke to another Roots foreman. When I said I was from B.C. he said that that made it too easy to quit once things got rough," said Mark.

The foreman was trying to hire people from eastern Canada as a tactic to get people to stick out the season. As he told Mark, "You could be home in nine hours." ^

"Thankfully," said Mark, "I wasn't hired."

Horror stories

So-called volume contractors make a profit by bidding low on contracts in order to get high volumes of work. This often means that work and camp conditions are sub-standard and that these companies pay low wages. Inexperienced planters are key to this strategy because they are often willing to accept bad conditions and a low price per tree or hectare planted.

Jean-Marc Benoit, a McGill Anthropology student with two years of planting experience detailed some common abuses in the planting industry.

"For a time we had no showers. When we finally got one it was broken and unuseable for at least a week."

But some planters who had the luxury of showers, said that they stayed dirty anyway. M.

Doerksen, visiting student in history, worked for a company called Celtic in Prince George, B.C.

"Companies are legally obligated to provide hot showers. Celtic's home-made showers were heated by a device called a Tiger Torch. Occasional loud explosions could be heard across the camp when the propane for the torch exploded while being lit, leaving yet another planter without eyebrows."

Clearcutting wages

In British Columbia, the average price paid per tree has declined in each of the last three years. According to Peter LaMantia from Roots Reforestation Ltd. prices being paid this year by his company are definitely down over 1992 levels by at least 10 per cent.

The downward pressure on prices is due to intensifying competition among companies for a limited number of contracts. While the number of trees planted in B.C. has been constant over the last two years at about 250 million, this is down from the historic high of 300 million in 1990.

Competition is also intensifying because contracts are increasingly awarded based on open bidding. In an open bid any company can compete for the contract. The result is that the companies who get these contracts frequently do it by sacrificing the wages of their workers.

The most lucrative contracts for the planter are those which are awarded on a preferred basis whereby a forestry company awards a planting company with a contract based on satisfactory work performed in the past.

For example, in past years Zeidler in McBride B.C. usually gave Mudslide Contracting a July contract where experienced planters averaged almost \$200 per day (gross), far above the norm in central B.C. When bidding is restricted to a small group of planting companies the results are frequently similar.

Contractors who run questionable operations may also resort to a bonus system to persuade planters to stay for the whole season. Some companies promise not to charge their workers for camp costs if they stick it out till the end.

Other companies charge fleeing workers twice the normal camp costs (usually about \$20 a day) for leaving early. One method is to promise to not charge camp living costs. In other companies camp costs may be doubled for people who quit (i.e. \$40 a day)! Bonuses constrict the mobility of planters and penalize those who leave to seek better working conditions.

Devin Tucker, who worked for Celtic Reforestation in 1991 said, "I didn't wanna quit, but if I did find the conditions unbearable, I probably would have stuck it out anyway because the financial penalty for quitting was so high."

Digging up dirt

Finding dirt on the numerous bad plant-

ing companies isn't hard. We recommend asking around; most of what you hear might be unbelievable but it's probably true. We would love to give you some names of contractors whose business philosophy it is to exploit neophyte planters but potential legal problems make it impossible for us to give their names. Suffice to say that some of these companies recruit on campus.

For students seeking planting jobs, it is important to note that the best companies do not usually have to go looking for planters, especially not on university campuses.

Tree planting companies can be loosely categorized in one of three general groupings. At the top are some very good and usually relatively small companies who only hire people with many years of experience and for whom tree planting is a way of life ("lifers"). These companies are often run on a cooperative basis and the wages are usually very high. For example, the day rate at one of these companies last year was in excess of \$250/day with no camp costs. The chances of getting a job with them are very low, especially as an inexperienced planter.

In the middle-tier there are numerous large and small companies who might not be as

generous as the best companies but who are fairly conscientious in ensuring that planters are adequately paid. These companies generally conform with the accepted conventions in the industry of what constitutes fair employment practice. There are two ways of seeking out this sort of company. One is to use a list of questions provided by people with experience (see sidebar). The second and more effective means is to go by word of mouth. A first year planter who works hard and learns good planting technique might be making \$150 a day gross by the end of the season.

At the bottom of the industry are those companies which hire planters on the basis of their inexperience (ie. with little knowledge of industry norms). These are usually the most visible companies on campus. In general they underbid large contracts in the northern interior of British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario and then get the work done by hiring a lot of inexperienced planters and underpaying them.

That a company has to hire at McGill is not necessarily a bad sign, but it is true that some companies want people from eastern Canada because once in B.C., they often have little choice but to stay, no matter how terrible the conditions.

AN INTERVIEW WITH NICHOLAS CALAMATAS AT THE MCGILL EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

One resource that prospective planters might tap on campus is the McGill Career and Placement Service Centre. Nicholas Calamatas at CAPS does workshops on planting, explaining how the industry works and what new planters should be aware of when they venture out into the bush for the first time. His workshops cover the gamut from what type of gear to buy, to carefully reading any workers' agreement with a tree planting company before signing it. For beginning planters this workshop is invaluable but it should be only the first step of a more comprehensive research project.

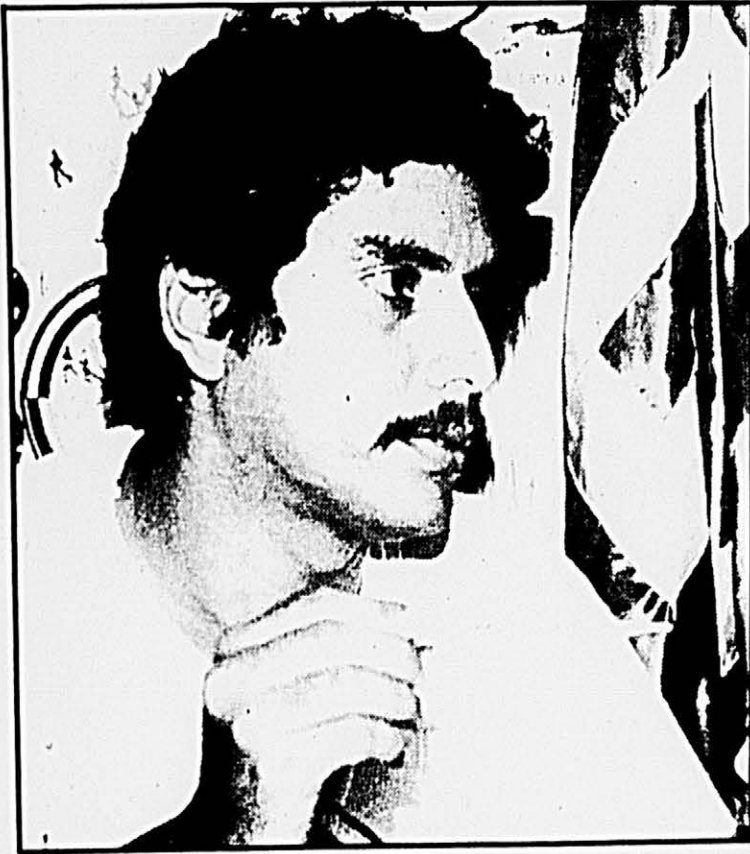
There are limitations on what he can tell you. Calamatas says "I can't say if a tree planting company is good or bad when students come to my workshop, because I am restricted by not having personal employment experience with any of them." He recommends to ask around. "Chances are you will be able to gain some useful insight from experienced planters who understand that you aren't sure what to expect."

Calamatas holds workshops on Fridays. For more information phone CAPS at 398-3304.

QUESTIONS TO ASK PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS

- What percentage of contracts were awarded without bidding (preferred work is usually best for planters) or in limited invitation bids?
- It is best for the planter to avoid contracts that were obtained through open bidding because of the tough competition for contracts.
- Ratio of green to experienced planters. If there are lifers (professional planters) returning year after year to plant, this is a good sign.
- How experienced are the forepeople? (Good ones have usually been around from five to twenty years)
- Camp costs.
- Will there be two months of Spring (May-June) planting? Summer contracts? Eight weeks in Spring and three weeks in Summer (July) is standard.
- Frequency of camp moves i.e. how much time is wasted not making money?
- How many planters are being hired? Contractors who hire large numbers of workers may be underbidding in order to get sufficient volumes of work. An underbid contract means low tree prices and pissed off planters!
- Is there a bonus system?

Consult the McGill Employment Center for more questions.



The students' fight for justice in El Salvador

an interview with Arnaldo Cruz

Students in El Salvador have historically been at the forefront in the fight for social justice and against military dictatorship in their country. During the past twenty years, many students took leading roles in the popular movement and in the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's (FMLN) guerrilla struggle, and many paid a high price for their commitment with their lives.

The *McGill Daily* recently spoke with Arnaldo Cruz, the International Relations Secretary of the General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS). Cruz spoke on the many new challenges facing students now that the 12-year-old civil war has ended and on the need for international support.

BY WAYNE HILTZ

Daily: Now that peace has come to El Salvador, what are some of the problems facing students in your country?

Cruz: One of the new challenges facing us since 1990 is that many of the students who were involved as guerrillas or working in the popular movement have now returned to the university or want to. One of our major challenges where we're asking for support at the national and international levels is for financial assistance for people who want to come back and finish their studies.

Daily: Have many students also continued their work with various community projects?

Cruz: Yes, certainly. A major area of our work right now is going out to the urban and rural communities and offering our knowledge to our people to try to help with the economic and social development of their communities. A lot of our effort is put into their reconstruction along with the participation of the popular sectors. So we're spending a lot of time on the environment, on human rights, and also with the women's sector.

Daily: Previously, many students have been arrested and even killed for their social and political activities. What about repression now that the war has ended?

Cruz: The prospects and possibilities for organizing now among the student sectors are better than they have been for a long time.

The repression isn't as bad as it used to be, although there is still some repression. And we have the opportunity now to be able to organize and to take some new initiatives. AGEUS is also now organizing cultural and practical activities which help students to understand the problems of our country. And we organize meetings where students have a chance to present their views about the practical problems that El Salvador faces today.

Daily: Is the right-wing ARENA government actively trying to undermine the student movement like other sectors such as workers and peasants? Is it cutting back on education?

Cruz: The budget for the National University is extremely low, the lowest in Central America. It's only 1.3 per cent of our national budget, of which 95 per cent goes to pay for professors' and workers' salaries. The rest goes towards the university's functioning and the students' educational needs.

You can compare this with other Central American countries where about five per cent of the national budget is dedicated to universities and about the same percentage of the population goes to university. So, there's obviously a large discrepancy.

And where there are about forty private universities which are dedicated

towards educating people from the wealthy sectors, the priorities for the government are simply not there for education. In addition, 80 per cent of the university's buildings are completely destroyed.

Daily: Is the government making any efforts to reconstruct the National University?

Cruz: Not at all. Through the Planning Ministry, the government is blocking reconstruction funds to the university. Funds are needed to rebuild a large number of buildings that were destroyed by the military during its occupation (1980-84) and by the 1986 earthquake.

Daily: El Salvador is still going through difficult economic times with about 50 per cent unemployment. How does that effect accessibility to university?

Cruz: It affects accessibility greatly. Less than one per cent of Salvadorans can actually go to the universities. To go to university is a fairly privileged thing. And yet despite all of that, the cost of going to university is relatively not that expensive. But in El Salvador, it is expensive and most people can't go.

A practical problem for most students is that they simply don't have the money to buy books or clothes. There's a high cost of living. And so faced with those practical problems, going to university is just one added burden for a lot of people.

Daily: What sort of support can Canadian students and other people give to Salvadoran students, their various projects, and to help pro-

mote social change in El Salvador?

Cruz: International help is very important. We've managed to keep the university open and have continued to provide university services to our people. But help from Canadian students and Canadians generally is something which is extremely welcome.

A specific example is that there's a group of students from Concordia, McGill, UQAM, and the Université de Montréal who are working on an environmental project who are planning to go to El Salvador in July to help implement this project.

We also need a lot of support at the level of grants or loans that people are able to give from institutions here to help students who had to leave university during the war to return and continue their studies.

In addition, offering Canadian technical and educational expertise can help Salvadoran students to contribute in a better way to the communities that we are involved with.

This struggle is not something that we view simply as a Salvadoran struggle but the help that people have given us at the international level has made our struggle much broader than simply El Salvador.

It's very important to us that Canadian students have the opportunity to come down and know our reality, to know the things that we're discussing, and be able to participate in whatever way they can to make some changes.

People wishing to know more about projects for Salvadoran students, or for El Salvador in general, may contact the Centre for Cooperation with El Salvador at 398-8546.

Gays, lesbians and Christ

BY KRISTIN CAHILL

The bible takes no uncertain position on the issue of homosexuality. Right from the beginning, god finds homosexual relations to be such a serious offense that he destroys the town of Sodom with fire and brimstone [Genesis 19:24].

Indeed, Lot, the good guy of the story, offers to give the men of Sodom his two virgin daughters "to do ye to them as IS good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing" [Genesis 19:8]. The biblical tradition states plainly that homosexual acts are "an abomination" [Leviticus 18:22].

Today's Christian churches struggle to reconcile the Bible's extreme and explicit stance on homosexuality with the increasingly modern and accepting views of the churches' members and clergy. The results of this struggle vary.

The United Church of Canada

has gone so far as to ordain a non-celibate gay minister, while the Pope claims that "it is not unjust discrimination to take sexual orientation into account" in areas of "adoption or foster care, in employment of teachers or athletic coaches, and in military recruitment." [Currents, Sept. 92]

Queers in the Pulpit

The United Church's General Assembly has published a New Statement on Membership, Ministry and Human Sexuality. In this statement, the United Church confesses to god that they "participated in a history of injustice and persecution against gay and lesbian persons in violation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

However, they also confess their "inability at this time ... to find consensus regarding a Christian understanding of human sexuality, including homosexuality." They

declare that "all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, ... are welcome to be or become full members of The United Church of Canada."

They also declare that "all members of the United Church of Canada are eligible to be considered for ordained ministry." Last June, a liturgy for the marriage of homosexuals was proposed, but it was defeated.

Last year, Tim Stevenson became the first openly gay minister to be ordained by the United Church since it began accepting gay ministers into its ranks. Within the United Church, a candidate for ordination may be ordained only if the church is assured by a specific region that there is a congregation for the candidate to minister.

When Stevenson was being considered for ordination, the United Church was told by the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario conference that they could provide

Stevenson with a congregation. Because of this assurance, Stevenson was ordained. When it came down to the actual negotiations with the local churches themselves, no place could be found for him. So while the United Church has ordained a gay minister, they have not yet found a church for him to preach in.

In Your Head But Not In Bed

The Presbyterian Church, in a 1985 report, maintained that homosexual practice was sinful according to scripture, though it was an issue that should be approached with pastoral concern and care. In 1992, the Presbyterian Church's General Assembly, comprised of clerics and lay people came out with an interim report titled "The Human Sexuality Report."

This report has been sent to the separate Presbyterian parishes but consensus on the report has not yet been reached. Roberta C. Clare,

chaplain for the Presbyterian and United Church at McGill says that the 1992 report seems to echo somewhat the 1985 statement, but that there seems to be some kind of shift.

The 1992 report distinguishes between sexual orientation and practice. Clare said that the Presbyterian Church has occasionally held views that were not scriptural, seeming to imply that the Presbyterian Church might at some point come to a different stance on homosexuality than the Biblical one.

Pope's a Dope

In October 1986, in a letter from the Pope to the bishops of the Catholic Church it was stated that the, "Catholic moral viewpoint is founded on human reason illuminated by faith and is consciously motivated by the desire to do the will of god our father."

continued on page eight

classified ads

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 4 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.**

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Information specialist provides and/or compiles bibliographies for all levels of users (students, researchers) and subjects. 845-7481.

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7 - Articles For Sale

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Gold Bracelet: Found on steps between Dawson Hall and Milton gates on Feb. 10/93. Sarah: 398-9423.

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14 - Notices

To all slavic people out there: Let's make ourselves overheard not only in newspapers! Interested in establishing a cultural slavic club, call 843-9321/3501.

Submit to Red Herring contests: 1) Write Jimmy Hoffa's obituary; 2) Funniest urban legends. Submit to Shalner 406 or SSMU desk, deadline March 15. 3) Funny photo contest. B&W prints to M.U.P.S. Contest, Shalner B06, by March 5.

The McGill University Photographic Society invites you to enter the XVth Annual Photo Contest. Get information & rules sheet in B-06 or call 398-6786.

Want to Talk? IBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer (above Millon) on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7. A great way to find out about yourself & others.

Confused or Curious? IBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) has restarted peer counselling. Anyone interested in IBGM and/or finding out about their sexuality can drop by Shalner Room 417, or call 398-6822. Hours are 7 to 10, Monday through Friday. We're here for you!

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Queers for Christ

continued from page six

Human reason, maintains Father Francis McKee, the (celibate) Catholic chaplain of McGill University, leads us to the conclusion that homosexual sex is incomplete and unnatural; and that whoever thinks about homosexuality honestly will come to this conclusion.

Father McKee believes that the biblical basis for the Catholic Church's position on homosexuality comes more from Genesis, where there is, what he calls, an exaltation of the beauty of the sexual bond between men and women who give their lives to one another.

The papal decree cites Genesis 19:11, Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9, and Romans 1:18-32 as basis for the church's belief that unrepentant homosexuals as well as other unrepentant immoral mutants will burn in hell.

Homosexual urges, says Father McKee, need to be healed. In support of this, he draws attention to the 1986 Papal decree that says, "although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil; and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder."

However, Father McKee goes on to say that someone who commits homosexual acts has not necessarily sinned because there is a question of culpability. One needs to have full control over themselves to choose to sin.

Because of this, he warns against generalizations in judging individual cases. He also claims that homosexuality is an issue because "people intuitively think that there's something not quite right about it."

The Catholic Church does ordain homosexuals who are celibate and does not condone homosexual sex. Not all Catholics agree that homosexual sex is intrinsically evil and unnatural. Dignity is a group that tries to help people reconcile themselves with being Catholic and gay.

The members of Dignity know they had no choice in their sexual orientation. The Catholic Church believes that gays and lesbians have a calling to be celibate, says Norman Prince, president of Dignity.

Dignity believes all sexuality is a gift of God and that they can express their sexuality in a way that is in line with Christ's teachings. They believe they can disagree with Church doctrine and still remain

faithful Catholics, just as those do that disagree with the church's stance on birth control and divorce.

Dignity believes that the Catholic Church has treated gays and lesbians poorly, especially in urging bishops to oppose legislation making discrimination against gays and lesbians illegal.

The principle purpose of Dignity is to be a ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics who feel unwelcome, and to strive to increase the visibility of gays and lesbians within the Catholic church. Dignity enjoys a high profile within the gay community where they do volunteer work.

The Catholic community in Montréal offers Dignity the use of the Newman Center, and is generally benevolent, though they cannot openly affirm Dignity's views. Most Dignity members find welcome in their community churches. Dignity claims progress in changing the attitudes of rank and file Catholics, more than acceptance of the church hierarchy.

Dignity meets the first and third Mondays of every month at the McGill Newman center. For more information contact Norman Prince at 398-9031.

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events

The Québec Alliance for the mentally ill offers an evening support group for parents, spouses, siblings and adult children of the Mentally ill. The Support Groups meet at 19h30, 4333 Cote Ste. Catherine Road. Information: 486-1448.

Concordia Irish Lecture Series presents Professor Wolfgang Zach, University of Graz, Austria. Topic is: W.B. Yeats: The problems of language and identity. 15h. Central Building, Room 321, Loyola Campus, Concor